

# Heckscher Park – Public Art On View

In addition to the many artworks on view in the special exhibitions and permanent collection galleries of the Heckscher Museum of Art, Heckscher Park also hosts both temporary and permanent installations of public art.

## What Is Public Art?

*Public art is a mirror that reflects the local environment, cultural values, and artistic vitality of the community in which it exists.*

*At its best, public art is more than just art installed in public places. It is a community-based process of dialogue, involvement, and participation. Public art enhances the quality of life for citizens by encouraging a heightened sense of place, enhancing a community's prestige, and enlivening the visual quality of the built environment.*

– Lake Douglas, public art consultant and former public art director at the Arts Council of New Orleans, from “Public Art Funding” Americans for the Arts (Dec. 2000)

## On View in Heckscher Park

### Permanent Installations:



Huntington's *September 11 Memorial* is located in the circular “oak grove” immediately in front of the Museum. Dedicated on September 11, 2006, this memorial artwork was designed by Architect **Ken Hudes**, whose proposal was selected from the numerous submissions received by the Town in

response to an open public call for entries. Weathered Corten steel columns and plates demarcate a sacred path to a commemorative fountain and plaque recognizing the 43 Huntington citizens who lost their lives in the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.



*Intervals of Prime #3* (2000) by native Huntingtonian **John Clement** was originally installed in Heckscher Park in May 2001 on loan from the artist. Subsequently, the receipt of private contributions from the community enabled the purchase of the work and its donation to the Town in June 2004. Fabricated from 3 ½” steel pipe, this work is located in the southwestern corner of the Park near the intersection of Rt. 25A and Prime Avenue.

### Temporary Installations:

Four works by Buffalo artist **Michael Joseph Hibbard** can be found in areas surrounding the Museum. Installed in 2009, these abstract works are marked by their architectural angularity and use of bold, often contrasting, color to emphasize their intersecting planes.



*Untitled #218* (2008)  
Welded sheet steel (painted)



*Untitled #191* (2008)  
Welded sheet steel (painted)



*Untitled #168* (2007)  
Welded sheet steel (painted) & concrete



*Untitled #203* (2008)  
Welded steel (painted) & plastic mesh

Immediately adjacent to the Museum is another abstract work made of painted welded steel – *Muse II* (2006) by **Michael Poast** (Long Island City, NY). This work was installed in 2008 and remains on loan from the artist.



Walk further into the Park toward Heckscher Pond and you will see on the tip of the centermost island *Ladder 3* (2012) by **Charles Politakes** (Huntington, NY).



This intriguing work consists of a pair of 18 ½' tall spires made of Cor-ten & stainless steel formed in the shape of opposing sine waves. As the viewer walks around Heckscher Pond these closely grouped spires appear to gradually interweave and separate in an unending cycle as one's viewpoint changes.

The final public art installation currently on view in Heckscher Park was originally designed in 2008, reconstructed in 2010, but not installed until 2012.



*Stick Figures* (2008-2010) by **James (Slim) Cook** (Shoreham, NY) consists of four stylized figures of performing artists, each approximately 7-8 feet tall, which are suspended between the support posts on the east and west sides of the Chapin Rainbow Stage. Fabricated from galvanized steel conduit, copper pipe, and copper wire, these whimsical performers add additional zest to what is already one of Huntington's liveliest and most beloved performance venues.

(Compiled January 2014)



### **Town of Huntington Public Art Initiative**

Nine citizens appointed by the Town Board serve as volunteers on Huntington's Public Art Advisory Committee, assisting in the planning and implementation of the Town's Public Art Initiative. Coordinated through the Town's Division of Cultural Affairs, this Committee recommends future projects in an annual Public Art Plan approved by the Town Board and assists in securing non-town resources to realize planned projects. For additional information on the Town's Public Art Initiative visit [www.HuntingtonNY.gov/PublicArt](http://www.HuntingtonNY.gov/PublicArt) or call 631-351-3099.



### **TOWN OF HUNTINGTON**

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For more information visit [www.HuntingtonNY.gov/PublicArt](http://www.HuntingtonNY.gov/PublicArt)